

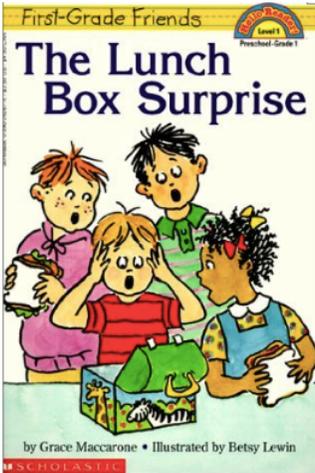
Hilltown Families.org

COMMUNITY-BASED
EDUCATION NETWORK

Titles for Exploring **Kindness**



Books About People



The Lunch Box Surprise

Grace Maccarone, Betsy Lewin

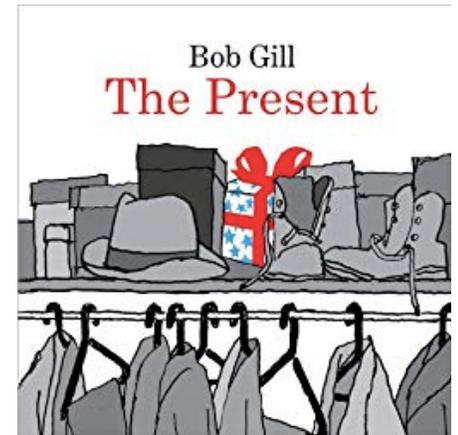
Ages 3-8

When Sam's mom forgets to pack his lunch, Sam is so upset! Luckily, his classmates come to the rescue, each sharing a part of their own lunch with him until he has more than enough to eat. This early reader book is one that young readers can easily decode, and follows a predictable structure that's easily accessible to the very youngest audiences.

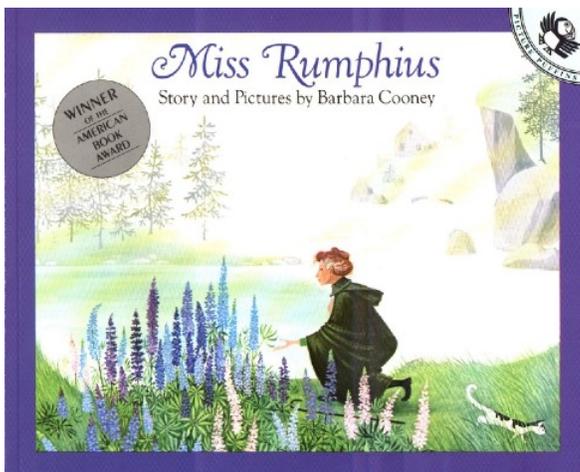
The Present

Bob Gill

Ages 4-8



Young Arthur discovers a wrapped gift in his father's closet and spends lots of time fantasizing about what might be inside and why. Having assumed it is for him, he imagines it could be ice skates, or a gazillion chocolate bars, or even a new backpack. When a representative for a local toy drive comes to his home, he immediately gives the gift away, recognizing that he doesn't need any of the things he imagined anyway.



Miss Rumphius

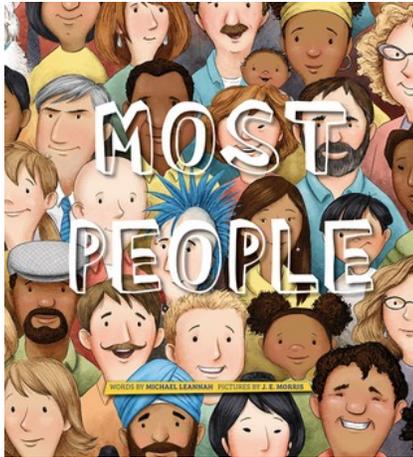
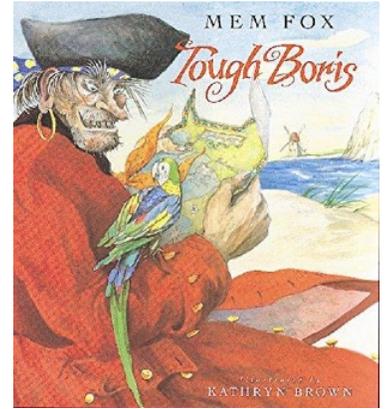
Barbara Cooney

Ages 6+

Alice Rumphius was taught at an early age to appreciate the wonders of the world, and to give back to the world by making it an even more beautiful place. She travels the world as a grown woman, adventures never ceasing until her age makes travel difficult. She retires to Maine, and dedicates the rest of her life to making the world just a little bit more beautiful.

Tough Boris
Mem Fox, Kathryn Brown
Ages 4+

Boris is a pirate, which means he's quite fearsome. He stands tall and orders his crew to work hard to search for treasure and sail his ship. A young stowaway on Boris' ship gets the opportunity to witness him at his fiercest, but learns that even Boris, the toughest of them all, is sensitive. Boris shares some of his deepest emotions with his crew, and in doing so, beautifully demonstrates that it's perfectly normal to feel upset sometimes.

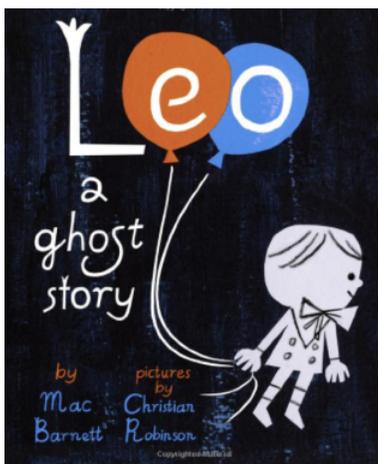
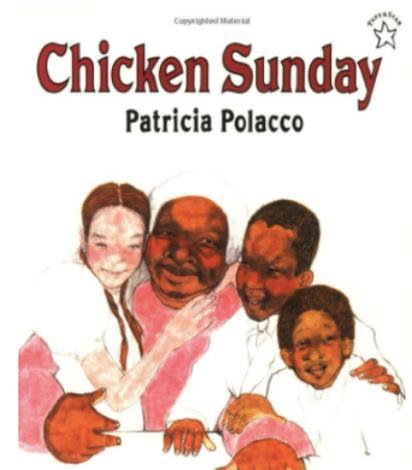


Most People
Michael Leannah, Jennifer E. Morris
Ages 5+

Most people in the world are good people. Most people are kind, and most people genuinely care about one another. While it is true that sometimes bad and scary things happen in the world, most of the time, things are good and life is worth living. People from a diverse variety of backgrounds are shown acting with kindness towards one another in everyday ways, reminding readers to see the all the good around them in the world.

Chicken Sunday
Patricia Polacco
Ages 8+

A young Patricia Polacco and her friends have a plan to buy their beloved grandmother for Easter. They're in the wrong place at the wrong time when the local hatmaker's shop is egged, leading him to believe they've done it. To show him they care about him and didn't do it, they make pysanky eggs, a traditional Russian Easter craft. As a result of their kindness, the hatmaker invites them to sell their eggs in his shop, and they make enough money to buy the hat for their grandmother.

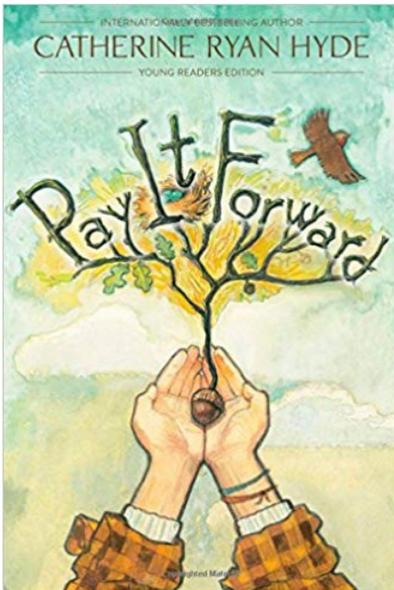
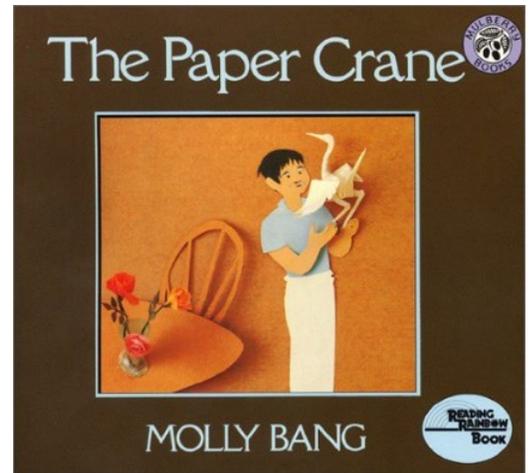


Leo: A Ghost Story
Mac Barnett, Christian Robinson
Ages 5+

Leo is a ghost, and is used to not being seen by people. He lives alone in an old house - until one day when a family unexpectedly moves in! The youngest member of the family can see Leo, and believes that he is real. They become great - though unlikely - friends. When a thief comes to the house, Leo's fondness for the family leads him to save the day.

The Paper Crane
Molly Bang
Ages 6+

When a highway bypass is built around an old road, a local diner loses business. Though the owner is proud of his restaurant, it is never busy. One day, a mysterious ragged man appears, and the owner feeds him out of the kindness in his own heart. In return, the man gives him a magical paper crane that will help to turn things around at his restaurant.

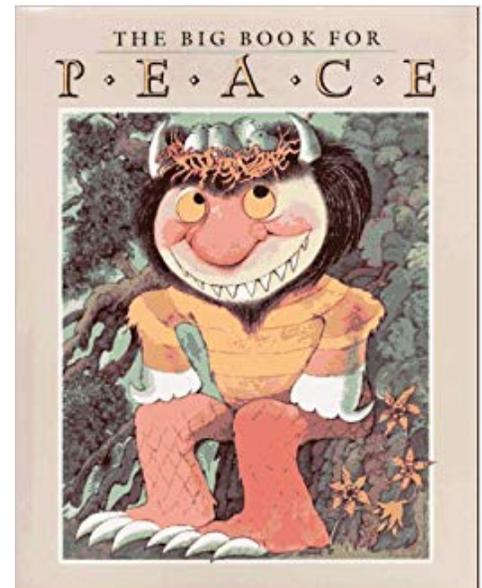


Pay it Forward (Young Readers Edition)
Catherine Ryan Hyde
Ages 13+

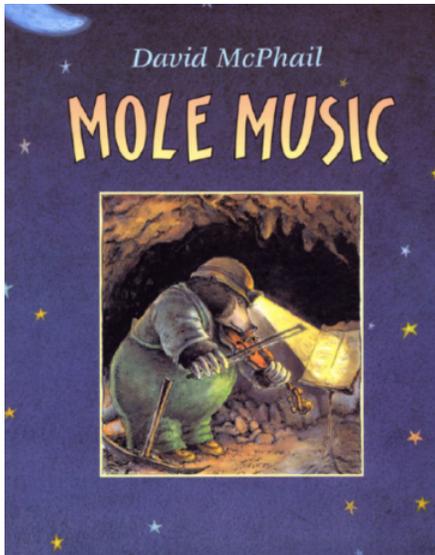
Trevor is assigned a social studies project wherein he must come up with a plan to change the world. His idea is easy enough to carry out: to do a good deed for three different people, and then ask them to complete an act of kindness for three others - thus creating a chain reaction of kindness throughout the community. Trevor is surprised to find that the impact of his plan is much greater than he ever had imagined.

The Big Book for Peace
Ages 4+

Made up of a collection of short stories, poetry, and illustrations from some of children's literature's best, this text encourages peaceful living and a culture of kindness. Authors include Stephen Kellog, Lois Lowry, Jean Craighead George, Natalie Babbitt, and Lloyd Alexander. Illustrators include Barbara Cooney, Maurice Sendak, Paul O. Zelinsky, and Jerry Pinkney.



Books About Animals



Mole Music

David McPhail

Ages 5+

Mole lives alone in his hole, digging tunnels in the dark all day. Over time, he begins to feel something is missing. He learns of violins from his television, and orders one for himself. Inside his burrow, he learns to make music and imagines himself sharing with the world. Little does he know that above the earth's surface, the creature world hears and enjoys his music.

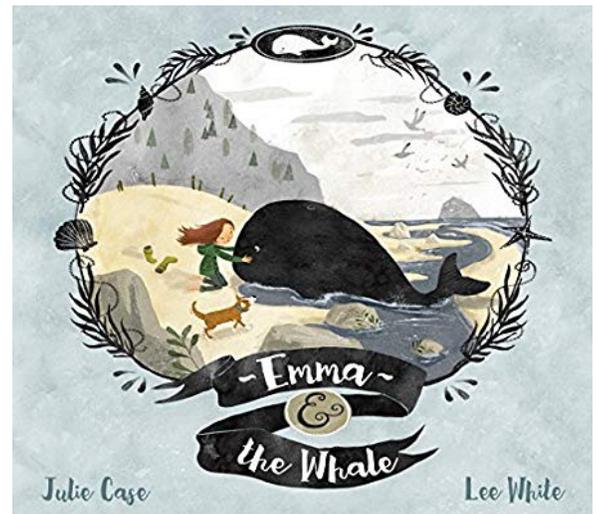
Emma and the Whale

Julie Case, Lee White

Ages 5+

Made Emma lives by the sea and spends her days searching for treasures on the nearby beaches with her beloved dog.

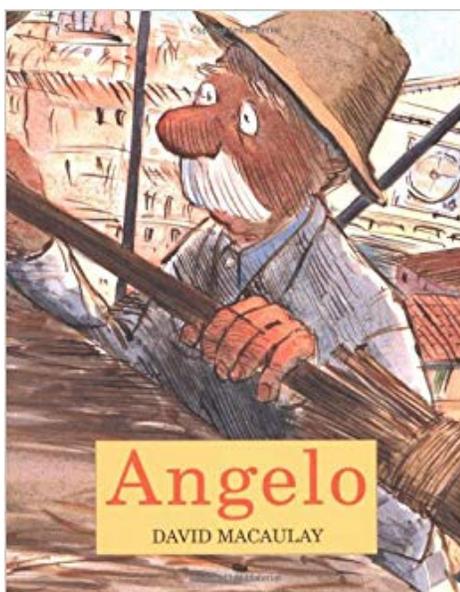
She finds treasures of all kinds, but one day makes a discovery the likes of which she has never seen before: a baby whale has washed up on the beach! Emma herself helps to get the whale back into the ocean, performing an incredible act of love and kindness for the creature.



Angelo

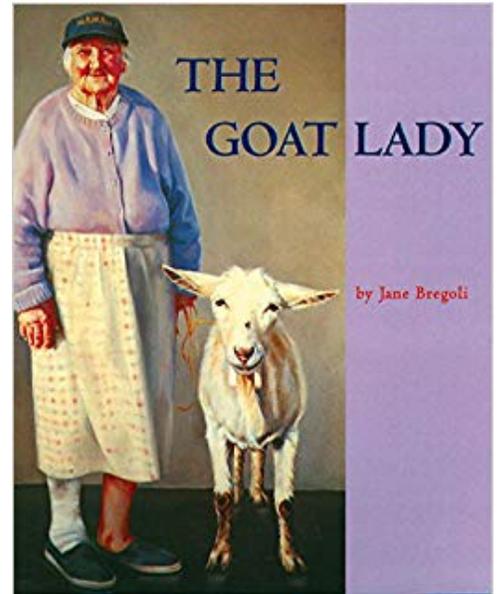
David Macaulay

Ages 8+



Angelo works each day restoring an old cathedral in the city. One day while working, he finds a pigeon who is near death on a ledge of the building. Angelo takes the pigeon home and nurses it to health, taking impeccable loving care of the creature until she's ready to be released back into the wild. The bird continues to watch Angelo from afar, and when she sees that he is quickly aging, she returns to show him kindness in his old age. The two become the best of friends, and together they carry out all of the plans that Angelo had hoped to carry out in his last days.

The Goat Lady Jane Bregoli Ages 8+



New to their neighborhood, two children and their mother befriend the Goat Lady, a neighbor whose small farm is not appreciated by most others in the community. The farm gets to know Noelie and her goats, and learns to love her. When the mother paints a series of portraits of the Goat Lady, their community learns to change how they see Noelie and her different way of life.



The Mountain that Loved a Bird Alice McLerran, Eric Carle Ages 4+

A rocky mountain lives a lonely and solitary life until one day a bird passes by on its migration. The mountain wishes for the bird to stay forever, but she cannot. Instead, she promises to always come back, and starts a chain of birds who, generation after generation, visit the mountain every year. Eventually, one bird drops a seed and allows a tree to take root. Slowly, the rocky mountain comes to life and is never lonely again.

